IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON DIVISION

IN RE: DIGITEK PRODUCT LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL NO. 1968

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES

<u>DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO</u> PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO EXTEND DEADLINES IN PTO #16

Defendants oppose Plaintiffs' motion to extend the deadlines set forth in PTO #16 for

class certification motions and briefing. The sole basis for Plaintiffs' motion on this issue is that

Defendants have not completed document production. Plaintiffs state: "Such documents would

include internal investigatory documents, correspondence, memorandums, emails, and relevant

individual's custodial files." This does not justify an extension of the PTO #16 deadlines for

class certification motions and briefing because the documents that Defendants will be producing

do not relate to Plaintiffs' burden in certifying an economic class. Simply put, whether there are

questions of law or fact common to the class, or whether the claims of the named class

representatives are typical of those of the class, are not questions that will be answered by

company records regarding the manufacture of Digitek® or individual custodial files. The parties

are not at the merits stage of the class action litigation, and this is a manufacturing defect case,

not one of design defect. The inquiries for class certification are either in the hands of Plaintiffs

themselves or existing, available information, not the internal documents about manufacturing

the product. This is addressed in the Defendants' brief opposing the Motion to Compel.

Though Plaintiffs have not requested an extension of the class certification motions and

briefing deadlines based on the current discovery dispute regarding Defendants' responses to

class discovery, Defendants expressly incorporate their briefs opposing Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel on that issue.

In sum, an extension of the PTO #16 deadlines for class certification motions and briefing – until 30-45 days after the final production of documents from the Defendants – is not warranted, and should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on October 8, 2009, a copy of the foregoing **Defendants' Brief in**

Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion to Extend Deadlines in PTO #16 was filed electronically.

Notice of this filing will be sent to all parties by operation of the Court's electronic filing system.

Parties may access this filing through the Court's system.

Respectfully submitted,

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